



CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS
COMPREHENSIVE HOSPITAL ABSTRACT REPORTING SYSTEM
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Questions and Answers on 2003 Data Re-release

1. Why is the Department of Health re-releasing the 2003 data?

After the 2003 data files were released, 1009 duplicate records were identified which needed to be removed. Most of the duplicates were concentrated in three small hospitals. In addition, DOH is adopting a more accurate formula for calculating patient age for the re-release of the 2003 data. Finally, one large hospital asked to add a number of records and correct others for the re-release of the 2003 data files.

2. What are the differences between the two releases?

This is difficult to specify until the new release is completed, but in broad terms one difference to expect is for the state-wide average patient age to decrease by a little less than six months in the new release. About half of patient records will show a younger age in the re-release due to DOH's adoption of a formula which should always yield the correct age. This formula will be used in all future releases.

Removing the 1,009 duplicate records will most greatly affect analyses which include only one or more of the three hospitals which had the largest number of duplicates. In small ways, dropping records might also alter analyses which use one or more of the three hospitals as well as data from a small number of other patients or hospitals. The hospital which asked to add records added 890 of them and corrected approximately 1500 errors in 333 other records. Analyses of that specific hospital will be most affected by the changes, but since this was a large hospital the impact should be minimal. There may be some, probably even smaller, changes in analyses which include that hospital's data along with that of other patients or hospitals.

At the state level, expect analyses using the new release versus the old one to differ in very minor ways on most of the variables except for age. For example, the frequencies of specific DRGs and average lengths of stay should vary little due to the large numbers of patients or hospitals used in state-wide analyses.

3. When will the new release become available?

The date of the new release is expected to be mid-August 2005.

4. What documentation will be provided with the re-release?

A more precise description of the differences between the two releases will become available once we have completed the creation of the new 2003 data file. Documentation will be provided as part of the re-release and will include specific comparisons of the data for the two releases for the hospitals with the greatest number of duplicates and the one which added and corrected its records. In addition, we will provide a statewide comparison for all the variables of the file.

5. Who do I contact if I want more specific information?

Aside from those specific analyses listed above, other data comparisons can be provided on request. Please contact:

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